

EXTRAORDINARY FAMILIES

By JOHN E. QUINN

"I'd mighty well like to see 'em," said a simple-minded rustic at a county fair, gazing wistfully at a banner in front of a tent sheltering some elk; "but it would be mean of me to go in without my family, and I can't afford to pay for my wife and seventeen children."

"What! Are all these children yours?" gaped the astonished keeper.

"Every the last one," calmly replied the rustic.

"Well, just stop where you are," returned the showman. "I'm going to fetch the elk out and let 'em see your herd."

Monroe Hopkins boasts the largest family in Genry County, Missouri. Monroe is the proud father of nineteen children, fourteen of whom are living.

Married twenty-four years, Mr. and Mrs. John White of Wakefield, Massachusetts, so far have raised twenty children, including three pairs of twins.

An estimable woman was Ann Jennings of Wiltshire, England. Ann's greatest achievement is engraved on her tomb in the village churchyard; thus:

Some have children, some have none;
Here lies the mother of twenty-one.

A Christmas present last year to Lee C. Gentle of Atlanta, Georgia, from his wife was a young son, their twenty-first. Gentle has been married twice, his second wife being only thirteen when led to the altar.

Fifteen boys and eight girls, a total of twenty-three children, are claimed by Mr. and Mrs. Nat Vallone of Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Their record is exceeded by Mr. and Mrs. John Duffy of nearby Carbondale, to whom have been born twenty-four children,—fifteen boys and nine girls.

August Clondeaux, a Fort City, Pennsylvania, glassworker, recently sailed for his native land, Belgium. Part of his entourage was his wife and twenty-four children. To the steamship officials, Clondeaux, being something of a baseball fan, described his children as "thirteen singles, four two-baggers, and a triple."

A remarkable census enumeration was that made by Mr. and Mrs. Antoine Lemere of near Marquette, Michigan. In twenty-six years of married life they have welcomed to their fireside twenty-four children, seventeen of whom still live.

Among his numerous blessings Samuel W. Dansbury, the oldest expressman at Trenton, New Jersey, counts twenty-five children.

In the same city when William C. Petifore calls the family roll he marks up twenty-seven Petifores.

At the age of ninety-two Mrs. Hannah Gould of near New Orleans not long ago attended a family reunion at Berkeley, California. The remarkable trip in connection with Mrs. Gould's trip from the far

South to the extreme West was, not that she became a Gulf Coast traveler at her advanced age, but that she was accompanied on her journey by her twenty-seven children.

John Canady, a colored man of Lake Wancee, Georgia, modestly confessed to twenty-eight children at the last annual roundup of the Canadys.

John F. Guy of near Delmar, Delaware, claims thirty-two children. Guy has been married three times, and strangely enough the marriage of a daughter by his second wife to the brother of his third wife makes Guy a brother to two of his own children.

Joseph Sears of DeLham, Massachusetts, can prove his children number thirty-four.

Some months ago one Juan Manuelo Grijalva, whose noble Castilian ancestors once owned leagues of land in California, was forced to place his thirty-fifth child, his beautiful little Dolores, under the care of the associated charities of San Francisco.

Small families all of these, however, when the dust is brushed from the long-shelved record of a Scottish weaver and his good wife. In the library of the British Museum mention is made of this family, the most remarkable in the world's history, and of the fact that "a certain gentleman of large estates rode thirty and three miles to prove the wonderful story." This weaver and his wife were the parents of sixty-two children. The majority of their offspring were boys, forty-eight of whom grew to manhood, and thirty-nine of whom were still living in 1630, in and about Newcastle-on-Tyne. Sir J. Bowers adopted ten of the sons, and three other landed gentlemen took ten each.

A MODERN RALEIGH

EX-SENATOR DEPEW says that it occurred in the suburbs of Albany. He was a stalwart young citizen; she a charming young woman. They were under an awning. The rain had ceased; but the street was muddy. He did not look like Sir Walter Raleigh; nor did she look like Queen Elizabeth. But probably Q. E. never looked prettier.

"Wuxtry poipers!" shouted a newsboy.

"Say, Kid," he said, "are you too busy to earn a half-dollar?"

"Well, Bo," replied the boy, "do I look like a cheap edition of Mr. Rocky-by-baby? Show me de mun."

"Well, Boy, take your papers, spread 'em out from curb to car track. Cover the mud with 'em. Get busy!"

He paid the astonished boy. The car came. He bowed in courtly manner to the Queen. She blushed and said:

"Oh, Billy, you foolish boy!" But she walked over the papered path as proudly as Q. E. could have done.

Then, like Q. E., she sentenced him for life. He is her meal ticket now.

HOW OLD HICKORY CAME BACK

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to answer any fool questions, but swings his club jaunty and starts down the line, with me and Milton, still carryin' the megaphone and field glasses, pushin' eager behind. He'd turned the trick! He'd shown that bunch he could hit the ball, and, even if we did quit and sneak back to the clubhouse as soon as we'd got out of sight, we'd put it over!

Find the ball? Sure we did. Had it with us all the time, in fact. Never heard of a hollow-headed driver with a rubber valve facin', I expect? Well, it wa'n't all my invention, for Milton and the greens keeper helped out; and it was Milton suggested puttin' the powder cap inside the club head to make the crack when the ball was scooped up. And for a fake drive it was a most convincing performance. I'll bet five years from now they'll still be tellin', down there at Pine Springs, how Old Hickory Ellins once drove the second bunker.

THAT wa'n't the best of it, though. Mr. Ellins was so braced up and tickled over the act that he has the nerve to send for a big specialist who was down there on a vacation, and call for an estimate on how long he would last if he quit the golf business then and there and went back to his desk. I was on hand to hear the verdict too.

"Last?" says the specialist, after he's thumped him all over. "Well, I can't say as to that, Mr. Ellins,—perhaps ten years, perhaps twenty,—but I'll say this: if you quit business now, and try to satisfy that

ninety horsepower temperament of yours with nothing but golf, I shouldn't guarantee you two years."

"But—but see here!" gasps Old Hickory. "I've had a slight stroke, you know."

"Bosh!" says the specialist. "Who told you that, Nivens? I thought so. That's his line. Can't see anything else, you know. Touch of acute indigestion, more likely, with a little rheumatism and gout to help along. Why, you're as sound as an oak plank!"

"And I needn't devote the rest of my life to golf?" says Mr. Ellins.

"Not unless you want to cut it short," says he. "That's another of Nivens' fads. Ask him why he doesn't do it himself. He's rich enough. But he doesn't quit, does he? He still makes his hundred thousand a year, puts in six hours of office work a day, and plays a wretched game of golf at odd times. So may you, if you choose."

"Whe-e-e yow!" explodes Mr. Ellins. "Torchy, go get those blasted golf clubs of mine. I want to prop 'em against a chair and jump on 'em. Then see about our reservations for the next train. I mean to be back at my desk before closing time tomorrow, and inside of forty-eight hours I guess that Guggenheim crowd will find there's more or less fight left in Old Hickory Ellins yet!"

Eh? Well, say, you just keep your eye on the Wall Street news for the next few days. Yes, yes! He's on the job.

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